

Introduced by Senator Maldonado
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Blakeslee)

January 13, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 72, as introduced, Maldonado. Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway.

This measure would designate a portion of State Highway Route 101 in San Luis Obispo County as the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway. The measure would also request the Department of Transportation to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers showing that special designation, and upon receiving donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost, to erect those plaques and markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon was born on October 1,
2 1915, in Chandler, Arizona, and was one of 10 children born to
3 George and Josephine Sturgeon; and
4 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon attended schools in Paso
5 Robles and followed in his father's footsteps as a milk distributor
6 in San Luis Obispo County for 12 years; and
7 WHEREAS, Vernon L. Sturgeon served on the Paso Robles
8 City Council for eight years and as the Mayor of the City of Paso
9 Robles for three years; and
10 WHEREAS, In 1961, Vernon L. Sturgeon was elected to the
11 State Senate for Senate District 29, and served in the Legislature
12 until 1966, when that district was reapportioned; and

1 WHEREAS, In 1966, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon became a
2 key advisor to Governor Ronald Reagan as the Governor's
3 Legislative Liaison Officer, and also as Chief Deputy Director of
4 the Department of Public Works; and

5 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon was appointed by
6 Governor Reagan to the Public Utilities Commission in 1969,
7 and was later reappointed by Governor Jerry Brown, making him
8 one of the few people to be appointed to the same position by
9 both governors. Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon served on the
10 commission until 1979, which included a three year term as
11 president of the commission; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon was a philanthropist
13 who, while a milk distributor, provided milk to those who could
14 not afford to pay for it; and

15 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon played a significant
16 role in securing the temporary site for the original Cuesta
17 College, and was instrumental in securing funds for a number of
18 projects and California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo.
19 Also, through his efforts, the library at Hearst Castle was made
20 available to University of California students for research; and

21 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon died on November 7,
22 2004, and was survived by his wife, Edythe Sturgeon, daughters
23 Elaine Healey and Carolyn Rexius, son Rick Sturgeon, brother
24 Wilmer Sturgeon, sister Mildred Barclay, eight grandchildren,
25 and 11 great-grandchildren; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Vernon L. Sturgeon carried the
27 appropriations bill in the Senate for funding the construction of
28 State Highway Route 46 from Paso Robles to the coast in San
29 Luis Obispo County; and

30 WHEREAS, It would be a fitting tribute to Senator Vernon L.
31 Sturgeon to name the portion of State Highway Route 101
32 between the cities Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo in San Luis
33 Obispo County as the "Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway";
34 now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby officially
37 designates that portion of State Highway Route 101 between the
38 cities of Paso Robles and San Luis Obispo in San Luis Obispo
39 County, as the Vernon L. Sturgeon Memorial Highway; and be it
40 further

1 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested
2 to determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers,
3 consistent with the signing requirements for the state highway
4 system, showing this special designation, and upon receiving
5 donations from nonstate sources sufficient to cover that cost, to
6 erect those plaques and markers; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
8 this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
9 author for appropriate distribution.